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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 518  
By Westmoreland

A RESOLUTION To honor the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Kingsport, Tennessee, and the Sullivan County Board of County Commissioners for their efforts to increase access to higher education.

WHEREAS, The Kingsport Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Sullivan County Board of County Commissioners recognize the need to develop an educated and highly trained workforce to stimulate economic development and to provide an incentive for young adults to further their education, attain high-paying jobs, and to establish permanent residences within the region; and

WHEREAS, In November 1999, the City of Kingsport sponsored an Economic Development Summit, which was attended by over one hundred leaders representing educational, business and industry, and governmental organizations; and

WHEREAS, During the Summit, the City of Kingsport identified increasing access to higher education as a major priority of the city and the region; and

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WHEREAS, Subsequent to the Summit, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Kingsport, desiring to provide opportunity for its citizens to have access to technology-based educational programming, established a goal to secure funds to build a Regional Center for Applied Technology, which would be operated by Northeast State Technical Community College; and

WHEREAS, To ensure that high school graduates have access to higher education, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen funded, during its October 2, 2000, meeting, the Kingsport Educate and Grow Scholarship Program, which provides two years of tuition assistance to attend Northeast State Technical Community College for every high school graduate whose parents resided within the City of Kingsport during the previous year; and

WHEREAS, Having recognized the efforts of the City of Kingsport, the Sullivan County Board of County Commissioners, during its May 21, 2001, meeting, funded the Sullivan County Educate and Grow Scholarship Program, which provides two years of tuition assistance to attend Northeast State Technical Community College for every high school graduate whose parents resided within Sullivan County during the previous year; and

WHEREAS, The Educate and Grow Scholarship Program is the first city government- and county government-sponsored program of its kind in Tennessee and in the Nation; and

WHEREAS, The actions of the Kingsport Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Sullivan County Board of County Commissioners directly addresses the State of Tennessee's goal to increase the educational level of its citizens, and thus enhance the quality of life within the Northeast Tennessee region and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That this General Assembly recognizes and expresses appreciation to the Kingsport Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Sullivan County Board of County

Commissioners for their partnership with Northeast State Technical Community College in establishing the Educate and Grow Scholarship Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.